

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1686

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide loan repayment incentives for physician assistants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2019

Ms. BASS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide loan repayment incentives for physician assistants, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Physician Assistant
5 Education Public Health Initiatives Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXPANDING CLINICAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**
7 **FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.**

8 The Public Health Service Act is amended by insert-
9 ing after section 749A of such Act (42 U.S.C. 2931–1)
10 the following:

1 **“SEC. 749A-1. EXPANDING CLINICAL TRAINING OPPORTUNI-**
2 **TIES.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
4 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services
5 Administration, shall award grants to physician assistant
6 education programs to establish or expand clinical edu-
7 cation and training for physician assistants at underserved
8 sites including Federally qualified health centers, critical
9 access hospitals, and rural health clinics.

10 “(b) ALLOCATION FOR RURAL SITES.—Of the
11 amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal
12 year, the Secretary shall allocate 50 percent of such
13 amount for clinical education and training at underserved
14 sites that are located in rural areas.

15 “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
16 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to physician assist-
17 ant education programs proposing to establish or expand
18 clinical rotations for physician assistants in pediatrics,
19 women’s health, or behavioral health.

20 “(d) REPORTING TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary
21 shall—

22 “(1) not later than March 1, 2022, submit an
23 interim report to the Congress on the implementa-
24 tion of this section; and

25 “(2) not later than March 1, 2025, submit a
26 final report to the Congress on such implementation.

1 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
2 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
3 priated \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through
4 2024.”.

5 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF PRIMARY CARE TRAINING**
6 **AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS.**

7 Section 747(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42
8 U.S.C. 293k(c)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting after “2014”
10 the following: “and each of fiscal years 2020
11 through 2024”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “Fifteen” and
13 inserting “At least 15”.

14 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**
15 **EDUCATION.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
17 Human Services shall provide grants to eligible entities to
18 fund eligible researchers to increase research on physician
19 assistant education.

20 (b) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring a grant
21 under this section shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
22 cation at such time, in such manner, and containing such
23 information as the Secretary may require.

24 (c) CONDITION OF RECEIPT.—As a condition of re-
25 ceipt of a grant under this section, an entity shall each

1 year award not fewer than eight eligible researchers funds
2 to support physician assistant education research.

3 (d) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—An entity receiving a
4 grant under this section shall provide to the Secretary
5 with respect to each year that such entity receives funds
6 under this section a report on the activities conducted
7 using such funds, including—

8 (1) the number of researchers supported during
9 such year by such entity using such funds;

10 (2) a list of the researchers counted under
11 paragraph (1), organized by researcher, including—

12 (A) the institution such researcher is affili-
13 ated with; and

14 (B) the research topic of such researcher;

15 (3) citations to published clinical and scientific
16 research by researchers described in paragraph (1)
17 that is attributable to support under this section;

18 (4) an evaluation of the benefits of grants
19 under this section; and

20 (5) any other information the Secretary may re-
21 quest.

22 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
24 ty” means an organization that—

25 (A) is a non-profit organization; and

1 (B) has demonstrated expertise in physi-
2 cian assistant education and faculty develop-
3 ment.

4 (2) ELIGIBLE RESEARCHER.—The term “eligi-
5 ble researcher” means, with respect to an eligible en-
6 tity, a researcher that—

7 (A) has demonstrated expertise in physi-
8 cian assistant education and faculty develop-
9 ment; and

10 (B) at such time and in such manner as
11 such entity may require, provides such entity
12 with a research proposal on improving physician
13 assistant education and faculty development.

14 (3) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION.—The
15 term “physician assistant education” means select-
16 ing, educating, and graduating students in accred-
17 ited graduate physician assistant educational pro-
18 grams.

19 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

21 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
23 necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years
24 2020 through 2024.

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